

included a new argument, that the land on which the Hudson dog track is situated has been historically recognized as Dakota Mdewakanton territory, and thus should not be used to promote the interests of three Wisconsin Chippewa tribes. This argument was developed by the BlueDog law firm on behalf of its client, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux.

Notably missing from the signature page of the final signed delegation letter was Sen. Wellstone, who, according to information conveyed to BlueDog, was not supportive of this opposition initiative. BlueDog contacted Tilsen, whom Wellstone has described as a good friend. On May 25, Tilsen wrote to Wellstone, stating that he would like to talk to him. Shortly thereafter, on June 6, BlueDog wrote to Wellstone to request Wellstone's "direct intervention with the Secretary of Interior" to oppose the Hudson proposal.¹¹²

At a MIGA meeting on July 21, the minutes reflect that a 30-minute recess was taken so that tribal leaders could meet with staff from Sen. Wellstone's office. No witnesses were able to recall what this break-out meeting was about. However, in light of MIGA's recent letter to Wellstone soliciting his help opposing the Hudson proposal, it is likely it was arranged so tribal leaders could discuss in person their concerns on Hudson with Wellstone's staff.¹¹³ The meeting

¹¹²BlueDog's billing records show that Tilsen and BlueDog were working together in late May and early June to get Wellstone's office on board in the effort against Hudson. BlueDog, and perhaps other opponents, clearly thought Tilsen to be instrumental in getting Wellstone on record in opposing Hudson. Wellstone told investigators, however, that Tilsen's efforts were not the reason he ultimately opposed the Hudson casino. He stated that he opposed the Hudson proposal because he is anti-gaming generally, and because this proposal would negatively impact Minnesota tribes like the Mille Lacs who, according to Wellstone, have tried many ways to make themselves economically self-sufficient and have found success only at gaming.

¹¹³Kurt BlueDog could not recall what the break-out session was for, but he noted, "It's curious because it had to be a pretty rare occasion for someone from Senator Wellstone's staff to meet with the MIGA tribes. . . ." Grand Jury Testimony of Kurt BlueDog, Dec. 9, 1998, (continued...)